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# WESTMOUNT EXAMINER

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## Christmas classics



The holiday spirit could be seen everywhere in Victoria Hall – even in the string section – on Sunday afternoon as all three ensembles of the renowned Westmount Youth Orchestra performed their annual Christmas concert to a packed house of proud parents, friends and local music lovers. Photo: Bob D'Amico

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## More snow trucks equipped with side guards

*Westmount is a leader in safety legislation*

■ MORGAN LOWRIE

As Westmount's fleet of snow plows and trucks gear up to handle the inevitable demands of winter, City officials are confident that many of them will be a little safer.

This year, at least one third of the trucks hired by the City will be equipped with side guards or bars which prevent pedestrians from falling under the wheels in the case of a collision.

"Every year, we get a few more done," said City Councillor Cynthia Latham, who points out that the City's own small fleet was equipped with the side guards two or three years ago.

The issue is a personal one for many in Westmount, who remember all too vividly the tragic death of 21-year-old Jessica Holman-Price, who was run over by a truck in 2005 as she pushed her younger brother out of the way.

The accident made headlines across the country, and led to questions of why more trucks are not equipped with safety barriers as they are in Europe.

Although laws requiring side guards are slow in coming (Newfoundland is the only province which requires them, although an NDP-sponsored private member's bill is in the works), Westmount did not wait for legislation.

Instead, the City moved quickly to put the side guards on their own three dump trucks.

Last year, they began requesting that the trucks they hire from outside companies do the same. This year, 10 of the 30 trucks will have the guards.

Continued on page 2 ▶▶▶

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## Lemieux squashes buyout rumours

(TC Media) The Westmount Examiner is here to stay — and it's definitely not for sale!

That was the message TC Media Vice-President Serge Lemieux had for the Westmount Independent this week following recent rumours in the community that the Examiner would either fold in 2012 or be bought out by Independent publisher David Price.

Nothing, he said, could be further from the truth.

Lemieux, who is VP of the company's newspaper division for Quebec and Ontario, confirmed that the Independent's offer to purchase was received by TC Media, which owns The Examiner, but he was quick to state that the offer was flatly refused.

He also questioned the ethics of Independent employees who have been

telling advertisers the Examiner will soon close or be bought.

"The Westmount Examiner is absolutely not for sale," Lemieux said. "I want to make this perfectly clear to the Westmount population. There have been many rumours concerning this possible transaction, but these rumours were started by employees of the Westmount Independent. We condemn these rumours; they show a total lack of professional ethics, and a lack of respect for our organization, our employees, and the Westmount community. We will *never* sell to the Westmount Independent."

Ironically, the rumours were started at a time when TC Media is investing in The Examiner, which is now printing on a higher quality paper for an enhanced product for readers and advertisers.

▶▶ Continued from  
MORE SNOW TRUCKS page 1

"You don't have to wait for the law to implement safety measures," said Westmount Public Works Director Marianne Zalzal. "When something makes sense there's no

need to hesitate."

The side guards cost about \$1,500 to install, and Councillor Lulham insists that the expenditure is well worth it.

"For just a small amount of money, we can stop people from sliding under trucks," she said. "We can save lives."

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# New waste bylaw to empower citizens

DAVID ADELMAN

While some Westmount residents wonder whether their food and household waste products should be disposed in the garbage, recycled or composted, other residents don't think twice about stuffing all their waste into one ecologically harmful basket. That is why the City of Westmount held a public information meeting in Victoria Hall on Dec. 1 to review a new bylaw proposal on waste management.

Public Works Director Marianne Zalzal thought it was time the City updated its bylaws to accommodate the community.

"The City isn't going to start a witch-hunt to see how and when people put out their garbage, but the goal of this meeting is to make sure the city is kept clean. It was decided that this bylaw did not define all our new programs that have developed over the years," said Zalzal.

The 31-page draft was put together by the council to simplify the evolved garbage process and was made available on the City of Westmount's website.

City councillor and Environment Commissioner Theodora Samiotis hopes the bylaw will clearly explain the rights and responsibilities of homeowners regarding waste management and provide definitions of the various types of household waste.

"We are one of the leading communities in waste management-recycling, composting and leaf-collection, but there is always room for improvement," said Samiotis. "This new bylaw is not about scaring people, it's about encouraging people to become more responsible citizens. With only three collections a week, it is difficult for the average resident who is trying to juggle work and family responsibilities to remember and sort through disposing weekly waste into the appropriate spot."

Westmounter Patricia Dumais, who attended the meeting, said that living in a duplex on Greene Avenue, the hustle and bustle of people isn't the only thing that she sees when she leaves her home for work in the morning. "Sure, I find the occasional bag of dog feces on my yard, or discarded coffee cups and sometimes my neighbors don't always put

out their garbage at the best of times — but this is minor compared to other issues," said Dumais. "The City is doing a good job in trying to keep the community clean."

Satisfied that the bylaw clarified certain issues regarding waste management, Dumais trusts that the City is committed to making an ecological difference. "The main goal is to send less garbage into the landfill because that is what will be costing the Westmount taxpayers more and more as the years go by. The less we send to the landfill and the more that is composted and recycled will save money in the long run."

She added that the biggest problem is educating more citizens to make an effort to clean their environment.

As a member of the Westmount Healthy City Project, former city councillor Tom Thompson said he hoped the outcome of this bylaw would encourage and empower the average Westmount citizen to take action.

"I'd say about 80 percent of residents don't know what the rules are. It's important that the community comes together on this issue to find out the best ways for waste management in the area and respect the need to reduce toxic waste from entering the landfill," said Thompson.

# Buckthorn menace hits Summit Park

MORGAN LOWRIE

Westmount's serene Summit Woods area has come under threat from an unwelcome interloper. The culprit is neither real estate developers nor rowdy teenagers, but rather a green, leafy shrub called Buckthorn.

"It's pretty impressively invasive," said John Fretz of the Westmount Planning Advisory Committee. "It just grabs all the sunlight, all the nutrients, and nothing else can really grow underneath."

Local volunteers have lately been busy combing the woods, marking off some of the plants with ribbons so they can more easily be uprooted in the spring. Buckthorn is so hardy that it stays green long after all the other leaves have gone, making this the ideal time of year to spot it, Fretz said.

"It's so hardy it will just take over," he said, adding that between 200 and 300 trees will need to be removed.

Buckthorn originally came from Europe in the mid-19th century, but Fretz said that the species' "big break" in Montreal came during the 1998 ice storm.

"Buckthorn loves sunlight, it loves disturbed soil," he pointed out. "When the other trees came down in the storm, it took root and took over."

The shrub usually grows from 12 to 15 feet



tall. The seeds are spread mostly by birds who eat the berries, and the plant takes root easily.

The fight against Buckthorn has been complicated by the fact that Summit Woods is a heritage site, and therefore special permits are needed to disturb the vegetation.

City Councillor Cynthia Lulham says that the species is so tough that the removed trees will need to be burned, so that they don't take root in the dumps.

"It really has to be eradicated, or it will become quite a problem," she said.

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**For the Record**  
Wayne Larsen LARSENW@TRANSCONTINENTAL.CA

# Vile rupertes and dirty birds

Westmount Independent publisher David Price was smacked good and hard on the nose by a rolled up copy of The Examiner this week when it was revealed by TC Media (which owns the Examiner) that his recent bid to buy this newspaper was flatly turned down.

Now of course there's nothing evil about attempting to buy out a rival — that's business. In fact some say that we at The Examiner should be flattered that we are considered such a serious threat to the Independent's existence that they felt compelled to approach our parent company with a buyout offer.

Oh, but wait — the existence of two local newspapers has been a blessing to local advertisers, who have been the sole beneficiaries of the inevitable price war (no pun intended), enjoying low line rates as the two papers compete for customers. Again, that's business — but who would have actually benefitted from the sale of the Examiner? Certainly not the three of us who work here full time, as our jobs would no doubt be scrapped, and certainly not our advertisers, who would suddenly find themselves back in a monopoly market, facing the inevitable monopoly price increases (pun intended).

But having said that, you can't blame a businessman for doing all he can to get ahead. This is an essential part of success — but there are limits, and the Independent has clearly crossed that ethical line by lying about The Examiner and its future.

The ugly underbelly to this tale was revealed this week by Serge Lemieux, vice president of TC Media's newspaper division in Quebec and Ontario, who lashed out at the Independent employees for their sleazy practice of telling advertisers The Examiner will soon be closing. This is completely untrue, so you can imagine how disturbing it was to hear from several of our advertisers that the Independent was telling them we were on the way out.

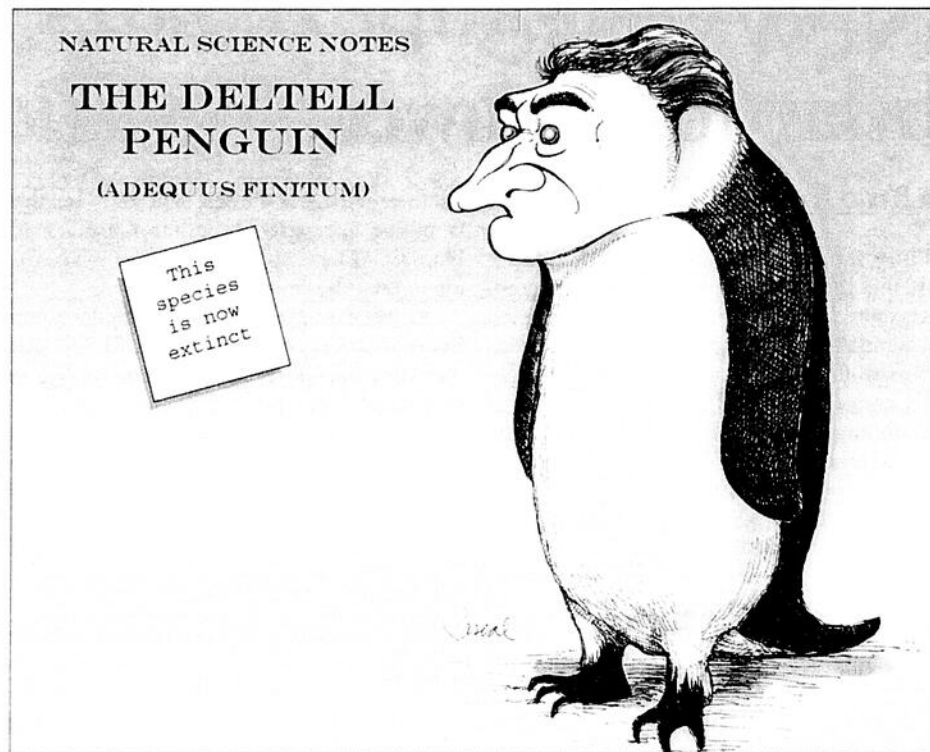
The Examiner is not the New York Times, nor does it profess to be. It is, however, a solid little community paper with a lot of heart, put together by a few hard-working, dedicated people who still win their share of media excellence awards each year. None of us have ever stooped to the level of lying to advertisers and other members of the community in a pathetic

attempt to curry favour with them or discredit our competitor.

## Local heroes do it again

While it is often difficult for some of us to get our heads around that annually occurring oxymoron "Westmount's needy," we have it on very good authority that there are actually people in this otherwise grandly privileged community who can find themselves down on their luck — sometimes to the point where a decent Christmas or Chanukah might be well beyond their grasp.

The good authority in this case is Westmount's Public Security Department, which has been spearheading an annual food drive for longer than many people can remember. They know who these unfortunate families are, and they visit them with a welcome box of holiday fare — along with some plain staples — and season's greetings at a time when many



of them need it most.

From the very first days of the food drive in mid-November, when PSO Mario Testa greets visitors to the Westmount Artisans Festival with a big smile and a heavy can filled with toonies, to the day of delivery to local homes just before Christmas, the whole operation has become a bona fide tradition. From the hard work of our protective services officers in coordinating the drive to the generosity of residents — many of whom will drop a \$20 bill into the can without blinking — this annual holiday initiative is

something of which all of Westmount can be proud.

For this week's Toula's Take, log on to



www.westmountexaminer.com

## Letters to the Editor

### The indoor-outdoor garage

To the editor:

Here we go again.

Councillor Patrick Martin once told the disgruntled tax payers that "once the indoor garage is built it will solve the traffic and car fumes pollution problems" caused by increased automobile traffic visiting the proposed two adult underground \$57 million hockey arena project.

The citizens are still shaking their heads over this comment.

But now the recent news is that the indoor garage has been cancelled. Can Councillor Martin or any of his fellow councillors please explain to the taxpayers what is going to happen with the toxic car emissions and added traffic now that the parking lot will be outdoors

directly in front of the 100-year-old church, where senior citizens have been holding their bake and craft fairs?

Larry Klepper,  
Ste. Catherine Street

### Who is eating crow?

To the editor:

This is in response to the opinions expressed by Mr. Sam Beitel in the December 5th issue of the Examiner.

Sir,

Patrick Martin's much celebrated engineering experience and mastery of "the spin" will not prevent water from leaking into our future arenas. Neither shall they prevent the facts behind its creation, from eventually leaking out.

In time Mr. Beitel, you will be "eating crow."

I hope that at that time, you will permit those who have stepped into the void of opposition and transparency in Westmount, to say, "I told you so."

David Ludmer,  
Grosvenor Avenue

## SEND US YOUR LETTERS!

The Examiner welcomes letters from readers on topics of local interest. While we only publish the writer's name and street, all letters must include the writer's name and address, as well as a daytime phone number for verification. Letters may be sent by mail to:

Letters to the Editor,  
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We look forward to hearing from you!

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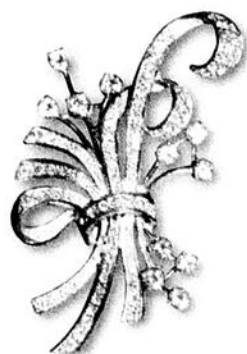
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# Creating new holiday traditions

Modern families are blending their faiths

■ MARYLIN SMITH CARSLY

A statuesque evergreen tree threaded with tinsel and shimmering with ornaments stands decoratively as the focal point in a living room. Beneath its lower branches ribbon tied gifts of various sizes are arranged. On the windowsill, a brass menorah burns brightly, and the fragrance of newly fried potato latkes scents the air. Through the fantasy of one's mind, one can almost hear the faint jingling bells of Santa's reindeer and echoes of spinning dreidals waltzing aimlessly along wooden floors. These dreamlike visions are memorable life scenes depicting the holidays.

Blanketing us with sentiments of love and contentment are reflections of this approaching season. We become enveloped within its deep folds by an atmosphere of family and celebration. Holidays can rekindle those joyous moments, replenishing us with endless possibilities. Can this hope-filled time persist meaningfully in our ever-changing world where family relationships have been facing some challenging belief adjustments?

I cherish the holiday season: the weeks before and the days that follow. I love the soft drifting flakes of snow, those celebratory dinner

gatherings, nights of wonderful reading, vigorous walks on the mountain and just catching up with life. Although Christmas is not part of my faith, I have rejoiced as an envious observer and marvelled at all the creative efforts involved in making it so exceptional. Fortunately, I did grow up exposed to alternate religious observances as my father possessed a wide circle of friends of all ethnicities and we did indulge annually in that Christmas spirit. Every Dec. 24 he would drive us to the homes of friends and clients and together we would share in their customs encircled with decorated trees, wreaths, cookies and sugar canes. How we loved those invitations and when we would return home, we would light our menorah and celebrate our traditions. We were enriched by the duality of the season and blessed with the heart-warming spirit of peace and friendship.

But life does not always follow an ordered and simplistic route. Complications can surface when families begin with two parents from two religions, and some contrary ways of thinking. When a couple practices one religion, life is definitely facilitated, although it still presents some hurdles. But when two religions are to be observed, there must be guidelines to adhere to so that mutual respect

between partners evolves. This past Nov. 28, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom Synagogue on Sherbrooke Street hosted an evening of discussion surrounding this topic of "Chanukah and Christmas: Fond Memories, New Traditions," led by psychotherapist Marion Usher, Ph.D. on how to assist interfaith families in handling their religious issues. In Washington for the past 16 years, she has been the creator and an active leader of her interfaith workshop "Love and Religion," geared towards Jews and their partners. With Chanukah and Christmas both approaching, how can families, where one parent is Jewish, and the other observant of another religion, be prepared as husband and wife to practice all traditions respectfully and spiritually?

Dr. Usher's commitment in conducting interfaith workshops and seminars is due to her belief that coping mechanisms must be in place at the beginning when a family is faced with this issue. Marriage with two cultures is much more prevalent today and frequently many partners are not prepared. She encourages a well-thought out plan so that there is concrete assistance in how to handle the transition and to coexist with differences.

Continued on page 15 ▶▶▶



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P E T E R D A S H

# ZURABIA

From Westmount friend and LCC grad

*Zurabia* - a word that makes the CIA and MI5 shudder, conjuring images of bloodlust in extremists. It is the secret code name for a deadly coalition of rogue Wall Street and Swiss bankers, as well as Arab sovereign fund managers. Together with the Islamic terrorist group called Al Quomini and European neo-Nazis, they seek to enslave the free world.

One soldier in the fight for freedom is an unlikely one—at least on the surface. Professor Adrian Sands, a Harvard University associate, has a shadowy past that few know. The scholar is also a trained mercenary and assassin secretly in the employ of the independent, spy agency called Z5. In an attempt to unravel the plans of Zurabia, he partners with an ancient female Masonic order led by Isolde, an Austrian countess, and other allies from the Middle East. Shared peril soon draws Adrian and Isolde together in ways neither deems safe or prudent.

Nothing less than the fate of Western civilization is in the hands of Sands and his Masonic companions, and the clock is ticking down to the physical and financial doomsday of Zurabia's making. The Masonic order is charged with stopping the corrupt bankers and terrorists from destroying Western democracies and much of the global economy along with it.

Can Sands and the order unravel the conspiracy in time?

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# Shop Greene Avenue

## New on Greene Avenue

Angelis and Lily Koutsos have just opened Brioche Dorée Café and Bakery at 1236 Greene Ave. As well as bread and pastries they serve hot meals, sandwiches and salads. They offer a catering service and are open seven days a week.



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# Shop Greene Avenue

## Temple opens fundraising gift shop

Thanks to a recent gift from members Rose and Lorne Kirsch in memory of their parents, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom has refurbished its entrance area on Elm Avenue and built the new Sol and Sylvia Kirsch Charitable Foundation Gift Shop.

The new gift shop had its grand opening and dedication ceremony, followed by a cocktail reception, on Nov. 3 and is now open to the public. The shop carries Judaica items and gifts for every occasion, including unique candlesticks, serving pieces, Kiddush cups,


mezuzahs, picture frames and handmade stationery, as well as the exclusive line of Saxon chocolates and nuts.

For those looking for the perfect baby gift, the shop carries a full line of custom designed baby items, including the original "Baby Bundle" pouch, coordinating blankets, baby towels, bibs, growth charts and other decorative nursery items, many of which can be personalized.

Continued on page 12 ▶▶▶



From left: Rabbi Leigh Lerner, Jane Adams Rothstein, Lorne Kirsch and Denise Grossman in front of the new Sol and Sylvia Kirsch Charitable Foundation Gift Shop at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom.

  
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## Caroling for a cure

Team RockStarr raises funds for cancer research

DAVID ADELMAN

Hearing the holiday tunes on the radio around this time of year is one thing, but listening to about 20 voices singing those classic Christmas and Hanukkah melodies is something else entirely — especially when the carols are sung for a common cause.

Now in its second year, Caroling for a Cure is an event organized by Team RockStarr, a local fundraising initiative in the fight against women's cancers. Spearheaded by the 23-year-old Concordia graduate Zoe Mintz and some

of her close friends, Team RockStarr was created two years ago when Mintz's mother was afflicted with a particularly aggressive form of breast cancer.

"Rock is a nickname for my mother Rochelle, and Starr is the name of our family's white poodle," said Mintz. "After eight rounds of chemotherapy, two surgeries and seven weeks under radiation, my mother is now in remission."

Continued on page 15 >>>



Team RockStarr raised more than \$600 caroling on Sherbrooke Street last year.

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## Orpheus Singers present orthodox music for Christmas

It would not be Christmas without the traditional holiday concert by the Orpheus Singers, and this year the prize-winning local chamber choir promises another not-to-be-missed international musical event.

Under the direction of Peter Schubert, the 30-year-old ensemble will present the concert "Lightning from the East: Orthodox music for Christmas" this Saturday night.

The title of the program comes from the Gospel of Matthew: "For as lightning in the East is visible even in the West, so will be the coming of the Son of Man." Not only does this refer to the geography of Jesus' birth, but to music from the Eastern Christian traditions.

The Orpheus Singers will sing Serbian, Russian, Estonian, and Armenian pieces and some by Western composers like Eric Whitacre and Peter Togni, that are in some way influenced by those traditions.

So whether is it music from the Orthodox East or the Christian West, music lovers are sure to be enlightened by these joyous sounds of Christmas.

It all takes place this Saturday, Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. at St. Matthias' Church, 131 Cote St. Antoine Road. Tickets are \$18 (\$20 at the door); \$10 for seniors and students (\$12 at the door). For more information or to reserve your tickets, call 514-846-8464.

►►► Continued from page 9

The shop also carries an exclusive line of youthful bracelets and necklaces that make beautiful Bat Mitzvah gifts, as well as a selection of Kiddush cups and other items for the Bar Mitzvah boy.

And just in time for Chanukah, the shop carries a full line of menorahs, including children's

menorahs, decorative candles, dreidels, Chanukah wrapping paper and more. Coordinators Jane Adams Rothstein and Denise Grossman invite the public to drop in and browse Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

All gift shop purchases help support Temple and the many important programs and services it offers.

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# Yes Virginia, Christmas has come to Westmount!



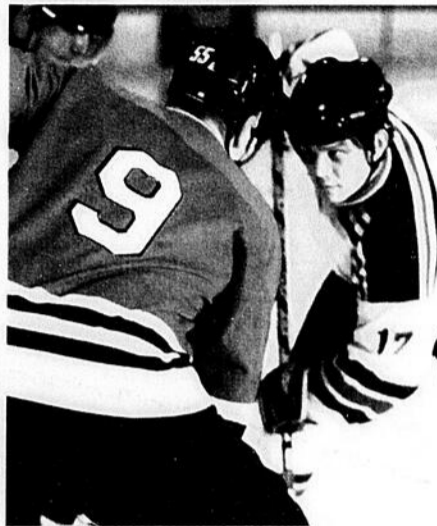
Virginia Elliott reads a holiday tale to local children at Westmount city hall last Monday evening. Photo: Radu Diaconu

Even a steady downpour of unseasonal rain could not dampen the Christmas spirit at Westmount city hall on Monday, Dec. 5, when City officials celebrated the annual lighting of the Christmas tree with holiday music and plenty of good cheer.

As in previous years, several holiday events

were planned for visitors, including a musical program in which Westmount city councillors, led by Mayor Peter Trent, entertained residents by singing a few carols. Children enjoyed story time courtesy of Virginia Elliott of the Community Events Department, and everyone had a great time.

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Pictured here is Sunshine Bree Cziment, owner of Sunshine Gallery, the new multimedia art gallery and artisan boutique at 4916 Sherbrooke St. W.. Sunshine Gallery has amazing and unique works of art from around the globe, as well as locally designed fine silver jewellery, luxury leather goods and much more. Come in and discover one-of-a-kind gift ideas.



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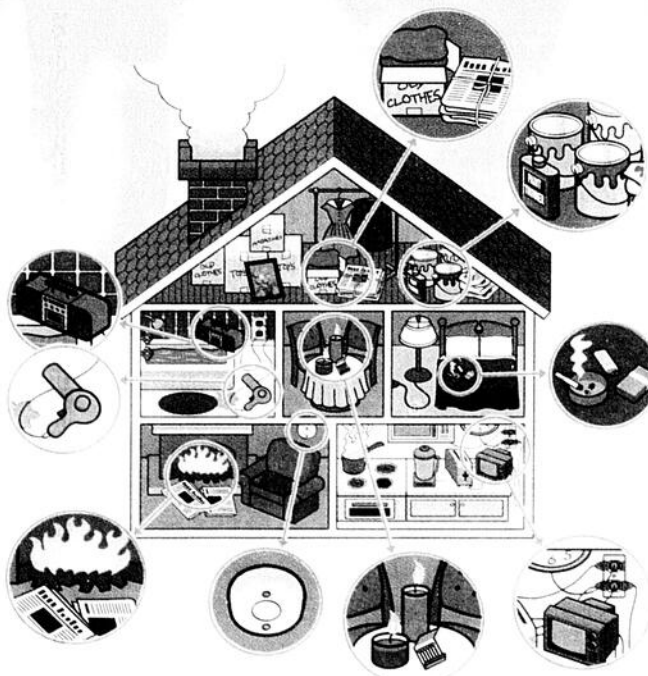
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Use a screen to contain fireplace sparks and keep all flammable materials a safe distance away.

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# Creating new holiday traditions

Continued from page 7

"I help couples through my workshops by instructing them on how to walk through the steps to gain the skills on how to have a successful relationship," she said. "I want them to discover real meaning in their lives."

She continued to elaborate that all this commences with the decision as to whether they are going to have what she calls a "lead religion." This refers to what religion will be the one in their home. There is also that preference that they may follow both of their religions and integrate them with their future families. "Respect and honour are most essential," she added. "If the interfaith couple co-creates to establish Judaism as the lead religion, this requires a level of sensitivity. For the many non-Jews who are relinquishing their birth religion, this is a huge loss as they are giving up a part of themselves so there must be a sense of understanding concerning this gesture."

A dire necessity lies in the inclusion of the extended family's religion as well. For instance, if the husband gives up Christianity and converts to Judaism, it does not mean that his parents and siblings are surrendering their Christmas rituals. Dr. Usher emphasizes that

in being reverent, the new couple should continue to rejoice with both families. Acceptance leads the way to harmony and eliminates any negative feelings of rejection.

Human beings isolate themselves consciously and unconsciously. We restrict our worldly exposure to a certain degree by erecting an invisible wall with dividers that religiously segregate us. However, today's younger generation is more assertive and steadily they have been tearing down these dividers with a more inclusive attitude. But when the religious theme of a home is not addressed it can become a dividing point. The decision of religious direction should be handled with expert guidance so that the transition will transpire effectively and with less emotional upheaval.

Christmas and Chanukah frequently overlap on the calendar and over time I have come to the realization that they possess many similar characteristics. The central ideas in every religion seem to revolve around family and togetherness. The rituals may be slightly diverse, but everything can be compromised with positive thinking, guidance and the desire to be harmonious. For all those welcoming Christmas, Chanukah or both, rejoice in the uniqueness and remember the joint and encompassing spirit that all holidays



represent.

During the ensuing months, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom will be programming more interfaith family evenings to provide that safe environment for discussions concerning various life issues.

Continued from CAROLING FOR A CURE page 10

Inspired by her mother's recovery, Mintz and Team RockStarr find creative ways of fundraising for research at the Segal Cancer Centre. Remembering caroling during their high school years, Mintz and her friends came up with the idea of collecting monetary donations through Christmas caroling.

"We thought that this would be a fun way to draw a crowd," she said. "Even though about half of us are Jewish and none of us really sing, it didn't matter because we just wanted to make a difference."

Last year, despite the cold weather, the group caroled their way into raising over \$600. This year, Mintz hopes they can raise \$1,000.

"Cancer doesn't only affect the individual but the whole family," said Mintz. "It's such a lonely illness that's really isolating and that's what is so great about caroling, because cancer victims don't have to be alone."

Team RockStarr will be out doing their thing this Sunday afternoon, Dec. 18. Anyone passing along Sherbrooke Street between Claremont and Prince Albert Avenues can listen and take part in the Caroling for a Cure event. The group will be singing between 1 and 4 p.m. in front of National Foods, 4903 Sherbrooke St. W.

"It's a great way to spread your holiday cheer during a time when people want to feel that warm sense of community," said Mintz.

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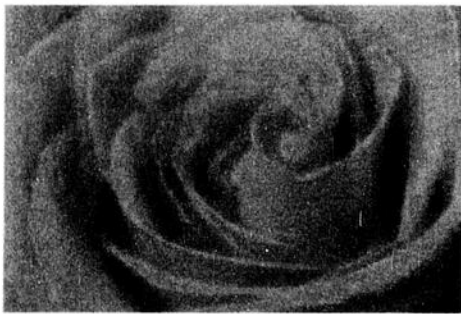
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# A new chapter for Westmount's Reform Jewish Community

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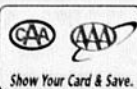
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■ DAVID ADELMAN

After 23 years of leadership, Westmount's Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom's Rabbi Leigh Lerner will be passing on the torch to a new senior rabbi, Lisa J. Grushcow.

Given the opportunity to stand before the pulpit of Canada's oldest Reform synagogue is a tremendous honour for Grushcow. She will be the first woman to acquire a senior rabbinic position in Montreal.

"I always approached my work not as a 'female rabbi' but as a spiritual leader bringing all of who I am to the table. The fact

that I was selected reflects the needs of the congregation," said Grushcow. "It's interesting because even in the United States there aren't that many women as senior rabbis for large congregations yet."

Born in Ottawa and raised in Toronto, Rabbi Grushcow went on to receive her B.A. from McGill University in 1996, where she was named a Rhodes Scholar. Pursuing graduate studies at Oxford University, Grushcow became interested in the progressive Jewish movement in England.

"I grew up as a conservative Jew, but I found a new home with Reform Judaism because of its inclusivity, theology and values," she said.

Her newfound passion led her on a spiritual journey of rabbinical studies at Hebrew Union College in New York City.

After serving nine years with New York's Rodeph Shalom congregation, Grushcow wishes to share her dynamic Jewish experiences from Ontario, England and New York with

her new Westmount congregation and create an inclusive environment for both young and old families. "I'm excited to bring in fresh ideas to engage the community about the depth of our history and values, but first I am here to listen to people and hear their stories," she said. "I want to see what the congregation's vision has for itself."

Recalling her university days in Montreal, Grushcow can relate to the difficulties young Jewish adults face trying to establish a Jewish identity. "When you're a university student, you reach the most liberal, creative moments of your life. So you want a Judaism that can be in touch with that. You want a place where you can bring your whole self into," said Grushcow, who said she is glad to use her Canadian terminology again.

Rabbi Lisa Grushcow will be coming in to visit the Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom community in February. Her term will begin July 1, 2012.



Rabbi Lisa Grushcow

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# Ready for another season

Outdoor hockey enthusiasts and skaters will be pleased to see boards for the rink at Wood Avenue and Sherbooke Street have been set up for another winter of fun... All we need now is winter! Photo: Matthew Faigan

## Women's Club raises \$1,700 for Children's Library

■ MARILYNN VANDERSTAAY

In addition to enjoying a festive luncheon at the Atwater Club and listening to the always captivating author Louise Penny, last Tuesday, Dec. 6, members and guests of the Canadian Women's Club of Montreal passed around Christmas bags for a freewill donation to the club's chosen charity — the Montreal Children's Library.

In thanking the club for what turned out to be a \$1,700 donation, Children's Library board president Linda Miller Eubank, updated members on "the little library that does big things for little kids."

"Basically, we are a unique and welcoming community library where all children can discover the magic of literacy, where imaginations flourish, and where learning is fun," Eubank said.


The 82-year-old MCL is an independent not-for-profit library with three branches in neighbourhoods where few, if any, municipal library services exist: St. Michel, Little Burgundy and in Westmount at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre building, which serves Shaughnessy Village. It boasts a membership of more than 7,000, of which 3,900 are members at the Atwater branch.

The libraries offer free services to any Montreal child, and diverse programming for all age groups from birth to 12 years, including story time for moms and tots, and afterschool activities for six- to 12-year-olds. In addition to

a nutritious snack the afterschool children participate in interesting programs that include a chess club, arts and crafts, a science club, and homework help. There are also author and illustrator visits as well as children's theatre and puppet theatre presentations. Since 1985, the MCL has been making Mother Goose come to life through a pre-literacy program that connects mothers with their infants and tots through rhyme and song. Mother Goose Rhyme Time sessions are presently given at seven centres in the Montreal region with three in French, three in English, and one session in Spanish. Families of the participants in the pre-literacy programs speak some 30 plus languages


MCL also has outreach programs at the dialysis unit at the Montreal Children's Hospital, the Oral School for the Deaf, and the Montreal Association for the Blind — places where children cannot get to the branches. In addition, the MCL also hosts a summer program in Cabot Square Park where children participate in programs including yoga in the park and live puppet theatre shows.

Being an independent not-for-profit library, it receives a quarter of its very tight operating budget from the boroughs. The rest the board and concerned members must raise themselves. "It is through the generosity of community minded people like the Canadian Women's Club of Montreal that we can continue our work with children and help to change their lives," Eubank said.




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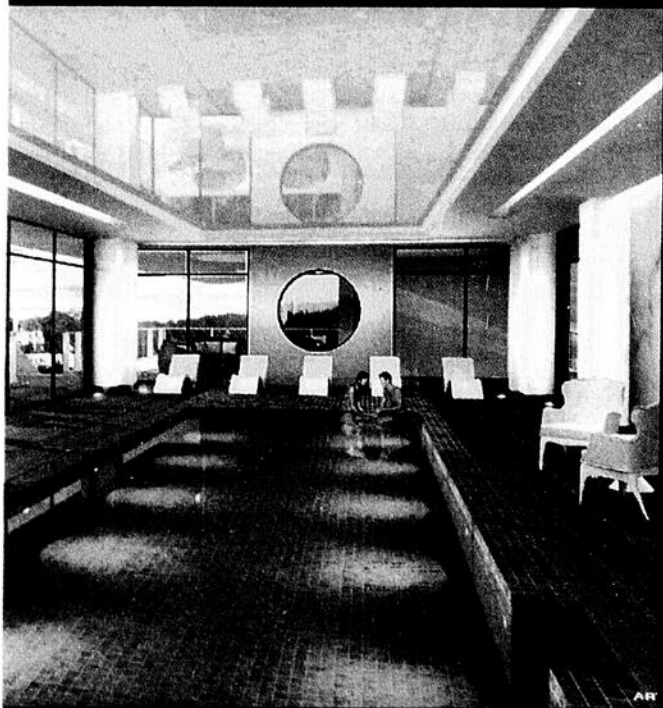
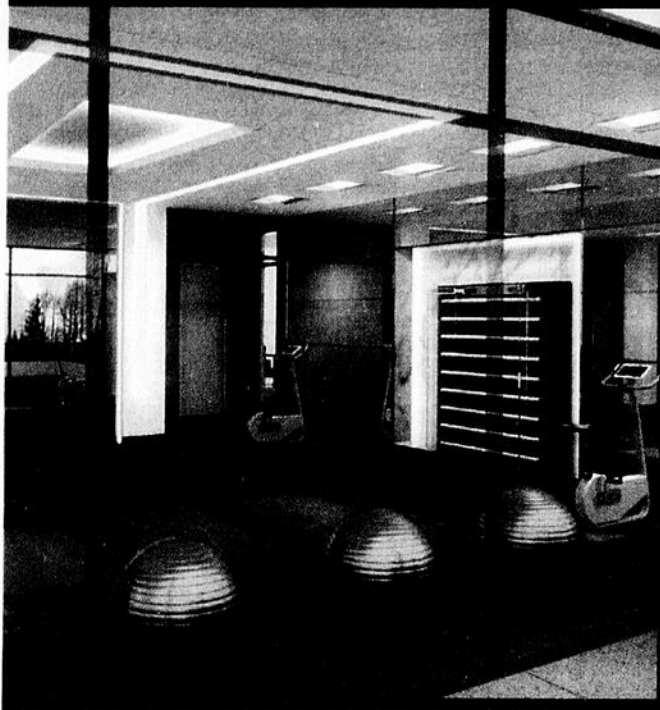
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